

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9246
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USMTN

ACTION STR (BARBARA STEINBOCK)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD GATT MTN
SUBJECT: MEXICO AND THE MTN

REF: KNEPPER-STEINBOCK JULY 13 TELECON

1. IN PREPARATION FOR U.S.-MEXICO ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS JULY 21-22, US MTN DEL DISCUSSED JULY 15 MEXICO'S INTERESTS IN THE MTN WITH MEXICAN MTN DEL DELGADO. DELGADO NOTED THAT ABEL GARRISO RUIZ, MEXICO'S PRINCIPAL MTN REPRESENTATIVE, EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MEXICO CITY FROM GENEVA JULY 16, WHERE HE HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN NEGOTIATIONS ON MFA RENEWAL. GARRIDO PLANS ARRIVE WASHINGTON JULY 20 TO PARTICIPATE IN BILATERALS. MEXICANS ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF STATUS U.S.-EC CONSULTATIONS, AND ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT THEIR INTERESTS BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. MEXICO WOULD PRESUMABLY WELCOME AN INTENSIVE BILATERAL DEVOTED TO MTN ISSUES.

2. DELGADO SAID MEXICO'S PRIORITIES IN MTN WERE AS FOLLOWS:

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(A) FRAMEWORK GROUP, ESPECIALLY LEGALIZATION OF S&D FOR LDC'S, WITH MEXICO SUPPORTING BRAZIL'S INITIATIVES. MEXICO'S EVENTUAL ACCESSION TO GATT DEPENDED ON OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS IN FG.

(B) SAFEGUARDS, MEXICO WANTED S&D, BUT HAD NOT

YET TAKEN POSITION ON SELECTIVITY.

(C) SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES.

3. DELGADO SAID MEXICAN DEL PROPOSED TO BE VERY ACTIVE IN TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS. HE HOPED TO PRESENT A THREE-STAGE PROCEDURAL TARIFF NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL LATE IN JULY OR SEPTEMBER AFTER CONSULTING WITH GATT SECRETARIAT AND OBTAINING LDC SUPPORT. WE WILL PROBE FURTHER.

4. CONCERNING POSSIBLE EVENTUAL GATT MEMBERSHIP, DELGADO SAID THAT WHILE MEXICO DID NOT PLAN TO NEGOTIATE ITS ENTRY INTO GATT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MTN, IT PROPOSED TO USE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THEM TN AS THE "PRICE" OF GATT MEMBERSHIP, SHOULD MEXICO EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO SEEK SUCH MEMBERSHIP.

5. DELGADO ALSO NOTED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO FINISH UP WORK IN THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP. HE OBSERVED THAT GARRIDO HAD MADE POSITIVE STATEMENTS IN BOTH THE RECENT MEETING OF SAFEGUARDS AND FRAMEWORK GROUPS WHICH INDICATED THAT MEXICO WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AND TO MAKE THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRED. IN FG, GARRIDO HAD NOTED THAT LDCS HAVE AN INTEREST IN ATTAINING THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL GRADUATE THEM FROM RECEIVING S AND D, WHILE LLDCS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT, AND HENCE ALL LDCS SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS, BUT ONLY THOSE "...THAT WERE IN A CONDITION TO DO SO." MCNAMARA

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NNN

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